

Amendments to the Claims:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes in Fig. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, the figure has been amended to include an illustration of a plurality of connectors.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1 sheet)

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses and request reconsideration.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the notice the claims 4-5 are allowed.

The drawings have been objected to. FIG. 2 has been amended to include an illustration of a plurality of connectors.

Claims 1-2 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Adams. Applicant has deleted to the word "substantially" to indicate that the same diameter be connected to the same diameter of the respective section. It will be recognized that the same diameters may vary due to tolerance differences as known in the art. Adams discloses a different structure where a pipe is actually designed to fit over a connector wherein the pipe and connector have different diameters. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB Patent 2,326,453A (Burchfield). Burchfield also teaches a different structure than that claimed. The apparatus of Burchfield cannot be used to join pipes with the same diameter. For example, FIGs. 5 and 6 show that the two individual components used must be different sizes as one fits inside the other. For example, the left most component shown in FIG. 5 fits inside the right most component. Therefore the pipes to which these components are attached must also be of different diameters. Since Applicant claims a different structure, Applicant respectfully submits that the Burchfield reference cannot anticipate the claims and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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